Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

RULES AND PRACTICE Committee Meeting

333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510 Austin, Texas 78701

> January 16, 2014 1:00 pm

Members Present: Shari Waldie, PT, Acting Chair

Karen Gordon, PT Gary Gray, PT

Staff: Nina Hurter, PT Coordinator

John Maline, Executive Director Mark Turek, Chief Investigator Cindy Machado, Licensing Manager

Guests: Paul Hardin, TPTA

Stacey Mather, TPTA Amber Townsley, TPTA

- A. Call to order
- B. Public comment
- C. Approval of minutes from the September 5, 2013 meeting
- D. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §341.6, License Restoration, and on restoration procedures for PTAs
- E. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §329.2, Licensure by Examination, regarding NPTE eligibility changes
- F. Discussion and possible action proposing changes to §329.3, Temporary Licensure for Examination Candidates, regarding the issuance of temporary licenses to candidates who are not working in Texas under the supervision of a Texas licensee
- G. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §329.1, General Licensure Requirements and Procedures, regarding allowing new licensees to work on the basis of website verification of licensure
- H. Discussion and possible action on making changes to the reevaluation requirements
- I. Discussion and possible action on establishing caseload limits or recommendations for PTs and PTAs in the school setting
- J. Discussion and possible action on the provision of physical therapy in the patient's home by PTs who are not employed or contracted by a licensed home health agency
- K. Discussion and possible action on a letter regarding clarification on the "daily treatment note"
- L. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates and agenda items
- M. Adjournment

A. Call to order

Ms. Waldie called roll and determined a quorum was present. She called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

B. Public comment

There was no public comment.

C. Approval of minutes from the September 5, 2013 meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes as submitted.

Made by: Karen Gordon Second: Gary Gray Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Waldie reordered the agenda.

E. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §329.2, Licensure by Examination, regarding NPTE eligibility changes

Staff noted that the Board received a memo from the FSBPT stating that due to issues raised by other boards, the implementation date for the exam eligibility changes had been postponed to 2016, affecting the need to make these changes immediately. The Committee decided to table further discussion of the changes until a later date.

F. Discussion and possible action proposing changes to §329.3, Temporary Licensure for Examination Candidates, regarding the issuance of temporary licenses to candidates who are not working in Texas under the supervision of a Texas licensee

The Committee discussed how the staff had issued a temporary license to someone in the military, who would not be working in Texas or supervised by a Texas licensee. It determined that although the logic of the law indicated that the temporary license would only be useful to a person working in Texas, it would recommend clarification with the proposed changes to the rule. It also requested staff revise the temporary license affidavits and make it clearer on those forms as well.

Motion: To recommend changes to §329.3 as submitted.

Made by: Gary Gray Second: Karen Gordon

Motion passed unanimously.

G. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §329.1, General Licensure Requirements and Procedures, regarding allowing new licensees to work on the basis of website verification of licensure

The Committee discussed a staff recommendation to amend this rule at a later date to allow people getting their Texas license to work once the license could be verified on the website, instead of making them wait until they received the paper license via mail. They agreed to add this to the May agenda for action at that time.

D. Discussion and possible action on proposing changes to §341.6, License Restoration, and on restoration procedures for PTAs

The Committee discussed other options for PTAs who need to restore a license and are not currently licensed in another state, specifically supervised practice. It determined that the Board also needs to reinsert the requirement for verification of licenses, which had inadvertently been deleted in the current revision. Possible amendment of this rule to address these issues will appear on the May agenda.

H. Discussion and possible action on making changes to the reevaluation requirements

The Committee discussed whether it might be useful to look at revising the reevaluation requirements currently in rule. The "30-day limit" that has been part of the rule since the late 1980s was based on Medicare requirements at the time. Now that Medicare has changed its requirements, it is possible that there is a better way to define the reevaluation requirement. With agreement from Mr. Hardin of the TPTA, the Committee decided to recommend that the Board encourage TPTA to develop a taskforce to look at this issue.

I. Discussion and possible action on establishing caseload limits or recommendations for PTs and PTAs in the school setting

The Committee briefly discussed the issues involved with establishing caseload limits in any setting (e.g. differences in regional needs, licensee expertise, etc.), and determined that it did not recommend addressing possible limits at this time.

Ms. Waldie recessed the meeting from 2:03 – 2:10 p.m.

J. Discussion and possible action on the provision of physical therapy in the patient's home by PTs who are not employed or contracted by a licensed home health agency

The Committee discussed a letter submitted by the Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice regarding the provision of home health care by PTs independent of a licensed home care agency. The TAHCH is concerned that licensees are not providing services in compliance with the Health and Safety Code (§142.002, §142.003) regarding how services can be provided to individuals in their homes, and requested that the Board establish a policy regarding the matter. The Committee determined that the Board has no authority to regulate licensees based on this statute. It agreed to post an FAQ informing licensees of those statutes.

K. Discussion and possible action on a letter regarding clarification on the "daily treatment note"

The Committee discussed a request from a licensee that it clarify what is expected in a daily treatment note either in rule or in an FAQ. The Committee agreed to develop an FAQ that discussed what should be in that type of note.

L. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates and agenda items

The Committee agreed to discuss amendments to §329.1 and §341.6, and possible changes to the reevaluation requirements, as established above.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Karen Gordon Second: Gary Gray

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Waldie adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Date reviewed by the Committee: 05/01/2014 Action taken by the Committee: approved as submitted